February 1, 2025

AP Carter

Personal Life

- **Early Life**: Alvin Pleasant Delaney Carter, known as A.P. Carter, was born on December 15, 1891, in Maces Spring, Virginia. He was the eldest of eight children in a musical family. His father was a fiddler, and his mother sang hymns and ballads.

- **Marriage and Family**: A.P. married Sara Dougherty on June 18, 1915. They had three children: Gladys, Janette, and Joe. Despite their eventual divorce in 1936, they continued to perform together for several years.

- **Later Years**: After the Carter Family disbanded, A.P. returned to Scott County, Virginia, where he opened a general store - Encyclopedia Virginia

Professional Life

- **Formation of the Carter Family**: In 1927, A.P. formed the Carter Family band with his wife Sara and her cousin Maybelle Carter. The group became one of the most influential acts in the history of country music.

- **Song Collector**: A.P. was known for his extensive travels throughout Central Appalachia, collecting and blending songs from various

sources, including Appalachian musicians and church services

- **Recording Career**: The Carter Family recorded nearly 300 songs between 1927 and the early 1940s
Their music included a mix of country, folk, and gospel genres.

- **Legacy**: A.P. Carter's contributions to music have left a lasting legacy. He was inducted into the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and is remembered as a pioneer of country music.

A.P. Carter's life was marked by his dedication to music and his role in shaping the country music genre.